

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-12 have been examined. Claims 1-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Claims 5-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

I. Preliminary Matters

A. Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the specification as being “replete with grammatically improper language” and has suggested that the Applicants revise the specification to include “proper, idiomatic English.” We have amended the specification to address those issues that the Examiner has noted. Based on a review of the remainder of the specification we believe the specification complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.52. If the Examiner believes that more errors needing correction exist in the specification, we respectfully request the Examiner to identify any such errors.

B. Objections to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to claims 7 and 8 because various terminology is allegedly unclear. We believe that our amendment to claim 7 overcomes the Examiner’s objections. As it appears the Examiner’s objection to claim 8 was based on claim 8 being dependent on claim 7, we believe the amendment to claim 7 overcomes the Examiner’s objection with respect to claim 8.

C. Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to more completely define the present invention.

D. New Claims

Claims 13-14 have been added to more completely define the present invention.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

A. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,520,622 to Yusef et al. (“Yusef”)

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Yusef.

The Examiner claims not to have received our submission of the certified translation of the priority document JP-2001-53325 submitted as part of Applicants’ September 22, 2003 Amendment. Accordingly, resubmitted herewith is the certified translation. For the reasons set forth in Applicants’ September 22, 2003 Amendment, Applicants submit that claims 1-6 are patentable over Yusef.

B. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,447,183 to Ford (“Ford”)

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Ford.

1. Claim 1

The Ford reference fails to teach each limitation of claim 1. Claim 1 recites a printer with a carriage, wherein the carriage has a pair of supporting portions between which a second portion of a first guide plate is interposed. Ford discloses a printer with a carriage 10 having a first guide plate 12. Ford discloses that first guide plate 12 has a second portion, upon which carriage 10

rests. However, as is seen in Figure 2 of Ford, the second portion of guide plate 12 is not interposed between a pair of supporting portions of carriage 10. Thus, Ford does not meet the aforementioned claim element of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claim 1 is patentable over Ford.

2. Claim 2

Claim 2 depends on claim 1. As claim 1 is patentable for at least the reasons presented above, claim 2 is patentable at least based on this dependency.

3. Claim 3

Claim 3 is dependent on claim 2, which depends on claims 1. As claim 1 is patentable for at least the reasons presented above, claim 3 is patentable at least based on this dependency.

4. Claim 4

Claim 4 is dependent on claim 1. As claim 1 is patentable for at least the for the reasons presented above, claim 4 is patentable based at least on this dependency.

III. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

A. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ford in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,368,403 to Broder et al. (“Broder”)

Claims 5-6 stand rejected as being unpatentable over Ford in view of Broder.

1. Claim 5

Claim 5 depends on claim 4, which depends on claim 1. Broder fails to cure the deficiencies of Ford with respect to claim 1 as set forth above. Claim 5 is therefore patentable over Ford in view of Broder at least based on these dependencies.

2. Claim 6

Claim 6 depends on claim 1. The Broder reference fails to cure the deficiencies of the Ford reference with respect to claim 1 as set forth above. Claim 6 is therefore patentable over Ford in view of Broder at least based on this dependency.

B. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ford in view of Murayama et al. ("Murayama")

Claims 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ford in view of Murayama.

1. Claim 7

Claim 7 depends on claim 1. Murayama fails to cure the deficiencies of Ford with respect to claim 1 as set forth above. Claim 7 is therefore patentable over Ford in view of Murayama at least based on this dependency.

2. Claim 8

Claim 8 depends on claim 7, which depends on claim 1. As claim 1 and 7 are patentable for at least the reasons mentioned above, claim 8 is patentable at least based on its dependency on claims 1 and 7.

C. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,195,836 to Longust et al. ("Longust") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,109,726 to Lee ("Lee")

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Longust in view of Lee.

The Examiner's rejection is the same as the rejection made in the May 21, 2003 Office Action with the exception of the change of "a supporting base, 30" to "a supporting base, 50." The Examiner has asserted that she finds the arguments presented in the September 22, 2003 Amendment to be not persuasive.

Even with the Examiner's change, the argument presented in the September 22, 2003 Amendment sufficiently distinguishes claim 9 from Longust. For example, claim 9 recites a second frame including first positioning members which define positions of the supporting legs in the first direction. The Examiner contends that the X yoke 30 corresponds to the claimed second frame, fasteners 32 correspond to claimed first positioning members, and sideplates 20 correspond to the claimed supporting legs, but Applicants respectfully disagree. For example, the X yoke 30 attaches to beam 10 with fasteners 32 near the center of beam 10. Col. 4, lines 30-33. The attachment of X yoke 30 to beam 10 with fasteners 32 does not define a position of sideplates 20. Accordingly, Longust does not teach a second frame including first positioning members which define positions of the supporting legs in the first direction.

As a further distinction, claim 9 recites a second frame including second positioning members, which define positions of the supporting legs in the second direction. The Examiner asserts that Longust teaches second positioning members 64 which define positions of the

supporting legs 20 in the second direction (Y). However, vertically extending fasteners 64 extend through bridge 50 and are received in carriage slider rods 60, 62. Col. 3, lines 63 - col. 4, line 2. This attachment of carriage slider rides 60, 62 does not define the position of supporting legs 20 in the second direction (Y). In fact, the specification makes it clear that the attachment of carriage slider rods 60, 62 to bridge 50 allows for movement of sideplates 20 in the second direction (Y) without affecting the vertical position of the carriage slider rods 60, 62. Col. 4, lines 33-43. The specification further states that carriage slider rods 60, 62 do not need to be attached to sideplates 20. Col. 5, lines 8-9. Accordingly vertical extending members 64 cannot define a position of the sideplates 20 in the second direction (Y). Thus, Longust does not teach second positioning members which define positions of the supporting legs in the second direction. Lee does not correct the above mentioned deficiencies in Longust.

For at least these reasons, claim 9 is patentable over Longust in view of Lee.

D. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murayama

Claims 10-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murayama.

1. Claim 10

Murayama does not teach each element of claim 10. For example, Murayama does not teach a flat guide plate as recited in claim 10. Murayama discloses only a round guide shaft 12. *See* Murayama, col. 6, lines 55-59; Figs. 2, 5, 20-27. Thus, Murayama does not teach or suggest

a flat guide plate as recited in claim 10. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 10 is patentable over Murayama.

2. Claim 11

Claim 11 is dependent on claim 10. Claim 10 is patentable over the cited reference for at least the above reasons. Claim 11 is therefore patentable at least due to its dependency on patentable claim 10.

3. Claim 12

Claim 12 is dependent on claim 10. Claim 10 is patentable over the cited reference for at least the above reasons. Claim 12 is therefore patentable at least due to its dependency on patentable claim 10.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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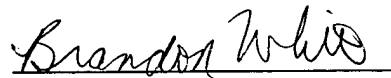
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